

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a sensing-area setting means for setting a sensing area used for a sensing object to sense information on one or more sensed objects within said sensing area; and

a transmission-area setting means for setting a transmission area used for a transmitting object to transmit information to one or more receiving objects within said transmission area

wherein one of said sensing area and said transmission area is wider than the other of said sensing area and said transmission area.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~The~~ An information processing apparatus for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a sensing-area setting means for setting a sensing area used for a sensing object to send information on one or more sensed objects within said sensing area; and

a transmission-area setting means for setting a transmission area used for a transmitting object to transmit information to one or more receiving objects within said transmission area;

~~of claim 1~~, wherein said transmitting object is said sensing object.

Claim 5 (original): The information processing apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
interaction means for exchanging data between said sensing object and said o sensed objects based on said sensing area, and between said transmitting object and said one or more receiving objects based on said transmission area.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~The~~ An information processing apparatus for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a sensing-area setting means for setting a sensing area used for a sensing object to sense information on one or more sensed objects within said sensing area;

a transmission-area setting means for setting a transmission area used for a transmitting object to transmit information to one or more receiving objects within said transmission area;
and of claim 1, further comprising:

determination means for determining whether said one or more sensed objects are within said sensing area, and for determining whether said one or more receiving objects are within said transmission area.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An information processing method for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space, said information processing method comprising the steps of:

setting a sensing area used for a sensing object to sense information on one or more sensed objects within said sensing area; and

setting a transmission area used for a transmitting object to transmit information to one or more receiving objects within said transmission area;

wherein one of said sensing area and said transmission area is wider than the other of said sensing area and said transmission area.

Claims 8-9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~The~~ An information processing method of claim 7, for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space, said information processing method comprising the steps of:

setting a sensing area used for a sensing object to sense information on one or more sensed objects within said sensing area; and

setting a transmission area used for a transmitting object to transmit information to one or more receiving objects within said transmission;

wherein said transmitting object is said sensing object.

Claim 11 (original): The information processing method of claim 7, further comprising the step of:

exchanging data between said sensing object and said one or more sensed objects based on said sensing area, and between said transmitting object and said one or more receiving objects are within based on said transmission area.

Claim 12 (currently amended): ~~The~~ An information processing method ~~of claim 7, for~~ management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space, said information processing method comprising the steps of:

setting a sensing area used for a sensing object to sense information on one or more sensed objects within said sensing area;

setting a transmission area used for a transmitting object to transmit information to one or more receiving objects within said transmission area; and ~~further comprising the step of:~~

determining whether said one or more sensed objects are within said sensing area, and whether said one or more receiving objects are within said transmission area.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium for presenting a program executable by a computer to operate an information processing apparatus for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space, said program to carry out processing including the steps of:

setting a sensing area used for a sensing object to sense information on one or more sensed objects within said sensing area; and

setting a transmission area used for a transmitting object to transmit information to one or more receiving objects within said transmission area;

wherein one of said sensing area and said transmission area is wider than the other of said sensing area and said transmission area.

Claims 14-15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A computer-readable medium for presenting a program executable by a computer to operate an information processing apparatus for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space, said program to carry out processing including the steps of:

setting a sensing area used for a sensing object to sense information on one or more sensed objects within said sensing area; and

setting a transmission area used for a transmitting object to transmit information to one or more receiving objects within said transmission area;

~~of claim 13,~~ wherein said transmitting object is said sensing object.

Claim 17 (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein said program further comprises the step of:

exchanging data between said sensing object and said one or more sensed objects based on said sensing area, and between said transmitting object and said one or more receiving objects based on said transmission area.

Claim 18 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A computer-readable medium ~~of claim 13, for~~ presenting a program executable by a computer to operate an information processing apparatus for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space, said program to carry out processing including the steps of:

setting a sensing area used for a sensing object to sense information on one or more sensed objects within said sensing area;

setting a transmission area used for a transmitting object to transmit information to one or more receiving objects within said transmission area; and

~~wherein said program further comprises the step of:~~

determining whether said one or more sensed objects are within said sensing area, and whether said one or more receiving objects are within said transmission area.

Claim 19 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space, said information processing apparatus comprising:

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a storage element configured to store information related to a sensing object, information related to one or more sensed objects, information related to a sensing area, information related to a transmitting object, information related to one or more receiving objects, and information related to a transmission area, wherein said sensing area is used for said sensing object to sense said information related to said one or more sensed objects within said sensing area, and wherein said transmission area is used for said transmitting object to transmit said information related to said transmitting object to said one or more receiving objects within said transmission area; and

a processor, coupled to said storage element, said processor configured to selectively set said sensing area and said transmission area such that one of said sensing area and said transmission area is wider than the other of said sensing area and said transmission area.

Claims 20-21 (canceled).

Claim 22 (currently amended): ~~The~~ An information processing apparatus for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a storage element configured to store information related to a sensing object, information related to one or more sensed objects, information related to a sensing area, information related to a transmitting object, information related to one or more receiving objects, and information related to a transmission area, wherein said sensing area is used for said sensing object to sense said information related to said one or more sensed objects within said sensing area, and wherein said transmission area is used for said transmitting object to transmit said information related to said transmitting object to said one or more receiving objects within said transmission area; and

a processor, coupled to said storage element, said processor configured to selectively set said sensing area and said transmission area; ~~of claim 19,~~

wherein said transmitting object is said sensing object.

Claim 23 (original): The information processing apparatus of claim 19, wherein:

said processor is further configured to exchange data between said sensing object and said one or more sensed objects based on said sensing area, and between said transmitting object and said one or more receiving objects based on said transmission area.

Claim 24 (currently amended): ~~The~~ An information processing apparatus for management of information on objects placed in a 3-dimensional virtual space, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a storage element configured to store information related to a sensing object, information related to one or more sensed objects, information related to a sensing area, information related to a transmitting object, information related to one or more receiving objects, and information related to a transmission area, wherein said sensing area is used for said sensing object to sense said information related to said one or more sensed objects within said sensing area, and wherein said transmission area is used for said transmitting object to transmit said information related to said transmitting object to said one or more receiving objects within said transmission area; and

a processor, coupled to said storage element, said processor configured to selectively set said sensing area and said transmission area; ~~of claim 19~~, wherein: said processor is further configured to determine whether said one or more sensed objects are within said sensing area, and to determine whether said one or more receiving objects are within said transmission area.